

Senate Bill 940 (Jackson, D-Santa Barbara) – California Conservatorship Act, SUPPORT

This bill reflects the California Law Review Commission recommendations to adopt the Uniform Adult Guardianship Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA) in California. The California Council closely followed the Law Revision Commission proceedings over several years and helped influence their final recommendations regarding UAGPPJA as California lags the nation in adopting UAGPPJA, with 37 other states and territories already following the model law endorsed by the national Alzheimer's Association. If passed, this bill streamlines the burdensome and costly guardianship process for both residents of California and their guardians as well as for out-of-state cases seeking reciprocity in California. This law provides legal relief during care transitions between states, in situations where there is long distance caregiving, and when a care recipient is traveling out of state. Passage of SB 940 is a state and national priority of the Alzheimer's Association.

Status: SB 940 is on the Governor's desk waiting for his signature or veto.

Assembly Bill 1570 (Chesbro, D-Sonoma) – RCFEs: Dementia Training, SUPPORT

This bill is one of 17 proposed changes in law to reform California's 7,000+ Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) in the wake of a series of tragic and avoidable or preventable incidents over the past 18 months. The California Council voted to not only support this bill, but to join the California Assisted Living Association (CALA) and Leading Age California as a co-sponsor because AB 1570 specifically addresses the Alzheimer's Association's legislative priority regarding "developing a dementia competent long-term care workforce." Of note, this is also a goal area of California's Alzheimer's Disease State Plan. AB 1570 proposes three significant, positive changes; the bill: 1) requires dementia training in all RCFEs, not only those that advertise or promote specialized Alzheimer's care as currently required in law; 2) doubles the number of dementia training hours for direct care staff in all RCFEs, increasing to 12 hours of dementia training before working with a resident and eight hours of in-service training annually on dementia-related topics; and 3) allows flexibility in training to include classroom instruction, on-line or web-based courses, and shadowing or observation.

Status: AB 1570 is on its way to the Governor's desk for his signature or veto.

Assembly Bill 1552 (Lowenthal, D-Long Beach) – Community-Based Adult Services, SUPPORT

This bill is sponsored by the California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS) with strong support from the Alzheimer's Association and more than a dozen aging organizations. With the elimination of Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) as an optional Medi-Cal benefit during California's budget crisis, the Legislature authorized a new program known as Community-Based Adult Services, or CBAS. The California Department of Aging was charged with assembling a stakeholder workgroup, which included Alzheimer's Association representation, to draft a federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) waiver application to launch the new CBAS program in California, replacing the former ADHC program. The waiver is now in its final form and California hopes to gain CMS approval before August 1 when the implementing language expires. As an added precaution, CAADS introduced AB 1552 to ensure that there is language in the California state statute to authorize CBAS beyond August

1, and to codify the new program as a long-term services and support option. With the closure of ADHC centers statewide, providers and consumers alike are eager for the new CBAS rules to take effect so existing programs can expand and new programs can open to fill the void left when so many were forced to close their doors to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in recent years.

Status: AB 1552 is on the Governor's desk waiting his signature or veto.

Assembly Bill 1744 (Brown, D-San Bernardino) – California Caregiver Act of 2014, SUPPORT

This bill, sponsored by AARP, proposes a statewide Blue Ribbon Panel on Caregiving, to include representation by the Alzheimer's Association, to study and make recommendations for increased support of unpaid caregivers. The California Council supports this bill, and is working closely with AARP to model the Blue Ribbon Panel on the statewide task force that developed California's Alzheimer's disease state plan. As proposed, the bill assigns responsibility to the California Department of Aging for implementation and requires a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2016.

Status: AB 1744 is on its way to the Governor's desk for his signature or veto.

Senate Bill 1127 (Torres, D-Chino) – Emergency Services: Silver Alert, SUPPORT

This bill expands the definition of the at-risk population eligible for priority law enforcement action when reported lost or missing to include individuals under age 65 who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. SB 1127 builds upon California's Silver Alert law, a mechanism similar to the statewide Amber Alert, that is deployed when an individual aged 65 or older is reported missing due to wandering or other cause. The Alzheimer's Association joins advocates for autism in supporting this bill, as we share similar concerns about individuals who may not attract public or law enforcement attention because they are older than a child and younger than a senior citizen, but who are at great risk of harm because of a cognitive impairment or a developmental disability.

Status: SB 1127 is on the Governor's desk waiting his signature or veto.

Senate Bill 1207 (Wolk, D-Vacaville) – Voluntary Tax Check-Off, OPPOSE

This bill proposes eventually eliminating all voluntary state income tax check-off donations (including Alzheimer's research in 2020) and replacing the option with a write-in for eligible nonprofits, charities and public agencies. If passed, SB 1207 would not jeopardize the Alzheimer's disease research fund until 2020; however, the Alzheimer's Association is working in collaboration with other tax check-off funded programs to raise shared concerns about existing programs that rely on legislatively approved funds.

Status: SB 1207 died in its final committee, Assembly Appropriations.

All bills can be accessed via www.leginfo.ca.gov

Questions:

Contact Susan DeMarois
California Council of the Alzheimer's Association | 916-447-2731 | sdemarois@alz.org